FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATION SECTION
MAR 28 1968

FBI GASH D*

TELETYPE

FBI MEMPHIS

410PM URGENT 3-28-68 MCP

UNCLASSIFIED

TO DIRECTOR AND WFO

FROM MEMPHIS 157-1092 5 P

SANITATION WORKERS STRIKE, MEMPHIS, TENN.; RM.

RE MEMPHIS TELETYPE MARCH TWENTY EIGHT, NINETEEN SIXTY EIGHT CONCERNING MARCH AND RIOT, MEMPHIS.

ADDITIONAL DEVELOPMENTS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

LT. E. H. ARKIN, INSPECTIONAL BUREAU, MEMPHIS POLICE DEPT., ADVISED MARCH TWENTY EIGHT THAT BY APPROXIMATELY TWELVE NOON, CST, THE DISRUPTIVE MOB WHICH HAD BEEN BREAKING STORE WINDOWS AND LOOTING BEALE ST. AND SOUTH MAIN ST., HAD BEEN CONTAINED AND THEN WAS DISPERSED AFTER CONSIDERABLE TEAR GAS WAS USED IN VINCINITY OF PONTOTOC AND HERNANDO STREETS IN FRONT OF CLAYBORN TEMPLE.

HE STATED THAT ONE OF THE LOOTERS, LARRY PAYNE, MALE NEGRO, AGE SIXTEEN, ELEVENTH GRADE STUDENT AT MITCHELL ROAD SCHOOL, WAS SHOT WHILE LOOTING AT NINE HUNDRED SOUTH FOURTH ST., AND WAS PRONOUNCED DEAD ON ARRIVAL AT JOHN GASTON HOSPITAL, ONE TWENTY PM. FIRST REPORT PAYNE SHOT BY POLICE OFFICER, HOWEVER SECOND REPORT REFLECTS PAYNE SHOT BY STOREKEEPER. THIS BEING CHECKED

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MEMPHIS PAGE

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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 3/9/86

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ARKIN ADDED THAT AT EIGHT FIFTY FIVE AM, MARCH TWENTY EIGHT INSTANT, THE MEMPHIS PD RECEIVED CALL FROM A [redacted] WHOSE MAID HAD STATED THAT A GROUP OF YOUNG NEGRO MALES FROM MITCHELL ROAD SCHOOL, WHICH IS LOCATED IN SHELBY COUNTY SOUTH OF MEMPHIS CITY LIMITS, HAD PLANNED TO PILFER ONE OF DOWNTOWN STORES DURING THE MARCH. THE MAID IS [redacted] FRMALE NEGRO, [redacted]

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ARKIN ADDED THAT ON MORNING OF MARCH TWENTY EIGHT, SOME NEGRO STUDENTS AT HAMILTON HIGH SCHOOL, MEMPHIS, ATTEMPTED TO INDUCE THROUGH VERBAL INTIMIDATION OTHER STUDENTS TO LEAVE SCHOOL TO PARTICIPATE IN MARCH, THAT A DISTURBANCE DEVELOPED AND WHEN POLICE CALLED TO SCENE SOME OF THE AGITATORS PLANNED TO INTERFERE WITH POLICE BUT THAT POLICE WERE ABLE TO DISPERSE CROWD AND MADE ONE ARREST OF A THIRTY EIGHT YEAR OLD NEGRO. CIRCUMSTANCES NOT KNOWN TO ARKIN.

ONE NEGRO WOMAN, POSSIBLY A TEACHER, WAS ALLEGEDLY HIT ON HEAD BY A STUDENT AND WAS TAKEN TO JOHN GASTON HOSPITAL FOR TREATMENT.

AFTER POLICE USED TEAR GAS TO DISPERSE CROWD, THE CROWD WAS DISPERSED AND ARKIN FEELS THAT POLICE CURRENTLY HAVE SITUATION

END PAGE TWO

UNDER CONTROL WITH THE EXCEPTION OF REPORTED SPORADIC WINDOW BREAKINGS AND POSSIBLE LOOTINGS, WHICH POLICE ARE CURRENTLY CHECKING OUT.

SOURCE ONE ADVISED THAT PRIOR TO START OF MARCH, SOME YOUNG MALE NEGROES, INCLUDING JAMES ELMORE PHILLIPS, LEMOYNE COLLEGE STUDENT, MEMPHIS, AND ONE SAM (LAST NAME UNKNOWN), AND OTHER, IDENTITIES NOT KNOWN, WERE HEARD NEAR CLAYBORN TEMPLE TO SAY THAT SOME OF MARCHERS SHOULD BREAK WINDOWS AND LOOT. SOURCE OBSERVED PHILLIPS, SAM, AND OTHERS, ESTIMATED TO BE FIFTEEN TO TWENTY, TO INTO ALLEY AREA BEHIND CLAYBORN TEMPLE AND OBTAIN STICKS AND BRICKS. THIS GROUP REMAINED BEHIND THE LINE OF MARCHERS.

(LT. ARKIN ALSO ADVISED THAT A RELIABLE SOURCE OF THE MEMPHIS PD REPORTED SOME OF THIS GROUP SEEN NEAR CHURCH WITH STICKS.)

SOURCE ONE ADDED THAT AS MARCH PROGRESSED WEST ON BEALE ST. THAT HE OBSERVED UNIDENTIFIED NEGROES, VARYING IN AGE FROM FIFTEEN TO TWENTY FIVE, BREAK WINDOWS AT PAUL'S TAILOR SHOP, THIRD AND BEALE, AND TAKE THEREFROM A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF CLOTHING AND SUIT CLOTH. HE HEARD MUCH WINDOW BREAKAGE WEST ON BEALE

ND PAGE THREE

AT THIS POINT SOME OF THE NEGROES, PARADE MARSHALS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF POLICE DEPT. ATTEMPTED TO DISPERSE MARCHERS AND TURN THEM BACK TOWARD CLAYBORN TEMPLE.

SOURCE ONE ADDED THAT AT THIS SAME VICINITY AND SHORTLY THEREAFTER HE SAW A TEENAGE GIRL LYING ON A SIDEWALK AND ABOUT SAME TIME HEARD A NOISE LIKE A GUNSHOT AND THAT RUMOR IS RAMPANT IN NEGRO COMMUNITY THAT A NEGRO POLICE OFFICER SHOT THIS GIRL. LT. ARKIN HAS NO VERIFICATION OF THIS.

SOME OF MARCHERS CONGREGATED IN CLAYBORN TEMPLE BUT COULD NOT LONG REMAIN, ACCORDING TO SOURCE, DUE TO HEAVY SATURATION OF TEAR GAS USED BY POLICE IN THIS AREA BUT UNIDENTIFIED MINISTER TOLD THE REMAINING CROWD TO NOT ALLOW DISRUPTION OF THE MARCH TO DAMPEN THEIR EFFORTS; THAT THE MASS RALLY SCHEDULED FOR CLAYBORN TEMPLE, SEVEN FIFTEEN PM, MARCH TWENTY EIGHT, WOULD BE HELD AS SCHEDULED, ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT STATE THAT KING WOULD SPEAK.

SOURCE ONE HEARD CHARLES LAVERNE CABBAGE, A SELF-PROFESSED BLACK POWER LEADER IN MEMPHIS, TELL SOME OF CROWD AS THEY LEFT TEMPLE THAT THEY SHOULD NOT RUN AND THAT THEY SHOULD NOT START A JOB THEY DID NOT PLAN TO FINISH. SOURCE CONSTRUED THIS AS A CALL FOR TROUBLE.

END PAGE FOUR

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ON FEB. SIXTEEN, NINETEEN SIXTY EIGHT, IN CONNECTION WITH ANOTHER INVESTIGATION, CHARLES LAVERNE CABBAGE AND JAMES ELMORE PHILLIPS ADVISED REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MEMPHIS FBI THAT THEY ARE A PART OF A SMALL GOVERNING BODY OF A BLACK POWER GROUP KNOWN AS "BLACK ORGANIZING POWER", WHICH IS AFFILIATED WITH STUDENT NON-VIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE.

THE INFORMATION FROM SOURCE ONE WAS FURNISHED TO ARMY INTELLIGENCE AND LT. ARKIN. SOURCE ONE HAS FURNISHED SOME INFORMATION WHICH HAS BEEN CORROBORATED THROUGH INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION IN PAST AND SOME INFORMATION WHICH IS UNCORROBORATED. P. END.

SFH

FBI WASH DC*

Included in letter to White House and Attorney General. Date 3-27-68 OEG:bj

Kevin Maroney
IIU assistant
3/28/68

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